

# CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

MORE THAN A PLACE TO VISIT • IT'S WHERE WE LIVE

## HOME OF THE 2015 U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE

**W**elcome to America's most northerly National Forest—the Chugach National Forest in southcentral Alaska, a landscape stretching from the sea to snowy peaks, in an area the size of New Hampshire. Its geographic diversity is unique among national forests.

People have lived on these lands for millennia. Today, the Chugach is the “backyard” for half of Alaska's residents.

It is a once-in-a-lifetime destination for a million visitors each year, who come from around the globe to witness the natural wonders and wildlife that Alaskans see everyday.



**I**n 1970, the Capitol Architect asked the U.S. Forest Service to provide a Christmas tree for the U.S. Capitol. Every year since, a different National Forest has been chosen to provide the 60-80 foot “People's Tree” that will grace the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, along with dozens of smaller Christmas trees (and thousands of locally designed ornaments) for offices across Washington, D.C.

The honor of hosting the tree lies in more than sending it to the U.S. Capitol. This tree is a symbol of how Alaskans rely on the Chugach National Forest and other lands for our livelihood, food, shelter, recreation and inspiration.

### U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree project Goals:

1. Strengthen Alaskans relationship with the Forest, our story, and that of our communities and partners.
2. Create and promote a sense of place and pride about the Chugach National Forest and Alaska.
3. Build partnerships that assist in the development and delivery of a focused and high-quality tree campaign continuing beyond 2015.
4. Engage key audiences in the celebration and identify key activities of shared interest.

